

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OMB-01 ABF-01 TRSE-00 AF-10

ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 SSM-03 ACDA-12 /137 W

-----050468 081656Z /14

R 080035Z APR 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0540

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01303

E.O.11652:GDS

TAGS: AORG, MARR

SUBJECT: UN FINANCES: ARRANGEMENTS FOR EIGHTH SPECIAL
SESSION OF UNGA ON UNIFIL FINANCING

1. USUN MISOFF MET BRIEFLY APRIL 6 WITH 32ND UNGA FIFTH
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TALIEH, WHO IS EXPECTED TO BE ELECTED TO
SAME CAPACITY IN EIGHTH SPECIAL SESSION ON UNIFIL FINANCING.
TALIEH AGAIN EXPRESSED FEARS THAT POLITICAL CONTROVERSY
WOULD ARISE DURING SPECIAL SESSION AND INDICATED HE WAS
WORRIED ABOUT KEEPING DEBATE UNDER CONTROL SHOULD THIS
HAPPEN. TALIEH SAID IDF WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH LEBANON
WAS INDISPENSABLE CONDITION TO ORDERLY PROCEEDING WITH
MAIN CONCENTRATION ON TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS IN
SPECIAL SESSION. HE URGED U.S. EXERT STRONG PRESSURE ON
ISRAELIS TO WITHDRAW, BUT WAS SKEPTICAL THAT WITHDRAWAL
COULD BE COMPLETED BY APRIL 21.

2. MISOFF STRESSED TO TALIEH THAT HIS SUCCESSFUL, DISCI-
PLINED MANAGEMENT OF FIFTH COMMITTEE DURING 32ND GA
POSITIONED HIM WELL TO ENCOURAGE FIFTH COMMITTEE TO AVOID
POLITICAL CONTROVERSY AND CONCENTRATE UPON ADOPTION OF
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UNIFIL BUDGET AND APPORTIONMENT OF EXPENSES AMONG MEMBERS.
MISOFF POINTED OUT THAT AN IMPORTANT OBJECT OF SPECIAL
SESSION IS TO RESTORE TRANQUILITY TO SOUTH LEBANON AND
PRODUCE A CALMING EFFECT GENERALLY IN THAT COUNTRY. A
BUSINESS-LIKE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROCEEDING, WHICH QUICKLY
PROVIDES SECRETARY GENERAL WITH THE RESOURCES AND FACILI-
TIES HE REQUIRES TO ACCOMPLISH MISSION ENTRUSTED TO HIM

BY A PREVIOUS ORDERLY AND CONSTRUCTIVE SECURITY COUNCIL PROCEEDING, IS NOW GREATEST CONTRIBUTION UN CAN MAKE TO IMPROVING SITUATION IN LEBANON. MISOFF URGED TALIEH TO EXERCISE HIS INFLUENCE, REPUTATION, AND LEADERSHIP POSITION TO FULLEST POSSIBLE EXTENT TO DAMPEN CONTROVERSY AND BRING ABOUT EXPEDITIOUS COMPLETION OF SPECIAL SESSION'S AGENDA.

3. TALIEH CONTINUED TO DOUBT HIS CAPACITY TO MAINTAIN ORDER IN THE EVENT POLITICAL CONTROVERSY ERUPTS. HE VIEWS HIS IDENTITY AS A DELEGATE FROM A MIDDLE EASTERN NATION AS A DISADVANTAGE IN THIS CIRCUMSTANCE, AND SPOKE OF "VULNERABILITY" OF HIS DELEGATION TO ARAB PRESSURES.

4. MISOFF ALSO ENCOURAGED TALIEH TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH LEBANESE MISSION, PARTICULARLY TO EDUCATE AMBASSADOR TUENI AND HIS DEPUTY IN FINE POINTS OF FIFTH COMMITTEE OPERATIONS. TALIEH RECOGNIZED THAT POSTURE ADOPTED BY LEBANESE DELEGATION WILL BE IMPORTANT TO SETTING TONE OF FIFTH COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS AND SAID HE WOULD DEVOTE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO LEBANESE, WITH WHOM HE HAS CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONS.

5. COMMENT: AS USUN POINTED OUT SEVERAL TIMES DURING 32ND GA TALIEH IS A SPLENDID AND ELEGANT SKIPPER ON A CALM SEA. HEAVY WEATHER, HOWEVER, MAKES HIM NERVOUS, AND CAUSES HIS
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HAND TO TREMBLE UPON THE TILLER. USUN WILL CONTINUE TO CONVOY HIM AND ENDEAVOR TO KEEP HIM ON EVEN KEEL, IN THE HOPE THAT IRAN'S STAKE IN UNIFIL ALSO WILL HELP TALIEH STEER A STRAIGHT COURSE. END COMMENT LEONARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BUDGETS, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN01303
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780152-0803
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780477/aaaacngv.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 39a7aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 aug 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3027660
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN FINANCES: ARRANGEMENTS FOR EIGHTH SPECIAL SESSION OF UNGA ON UNIFIL FINANCING
TAGS: AORG, MARR, US, IS, XF, UNIFIL, UNGA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/39a7aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014